GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5279
ANSWERED ON:14.05.2007
LIFTING OF FOODGRAINS AND SUGAR
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding quantum and value of the foodgrains and sugar lying in the godowns across the country due to the failure of the States and other agencies to lift quota allocated to them as on date; and

(b) the reasons for non-lifting of the foodgrains and sugar by these agencies?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): Foodgrains allocated to States/UTs under TPDS are released by FCI to concerned State/UT governments from designated depots. Food Corporation of India has to maintain buffer stocks of two months in every Region as per MOU with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. Since foodgrains stocks in FCI depots are maintained quantity-wise and commodity-wise, and are not identified State-wise, FCI does not maintain separate record on State specific unlifted quantities.

Similarly, record of quantum and value of sugar lying in the godowns of sugar factories due to its non-lifting by State Agencies and Food Corporation of India is not maintained in the Department.

(b): The reasons for non-lifting of foodgrains are factors like availability of foodgrains in local market and with growers of food crops, prevalent market prices, food preferences of local people, resources position of State/UT Governments, availability of rakes at particular time and other transport arrangements, etc.

The reasons for non-lifting of levy sugar may be such as lack of demand due to less difference between the market price of non-levy sugar and retail issue price of levy sugar, transport bottlenecks, etc.